

To the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

On behalf of Oregon State University-Cascades' student body, the Associated Students of Cascades Campus (ASCC) write this testimony to express the importance of SB 5201, sponsored by Sen. Knopp, for OSU-Cascades future.

The \$24 million we're requesting from the state is meant to turn a demolition landfill and a pumice mine into the foundation for higher education in Central Oregon. Our current student body is around 1300 students, and we are one of the only universities in Oregon that is continuing to see enrollment growth. OSU-Cascades has come a long way from its origins in 2001, but we still need the support of the state so we can serve our community.

The land being remediated with this legislative ask will expedite the development of a residence hall and a Health & Recreation Center. With the rapidly inflating prices of rent and groceries in Central Oregon, many students are taking on part-time and full-time to keep up with the cost of living and tuition. A new residence hall on campus would offer affordable housing options to our students and cultivate an environment where they can focus on their academic success.

Oregon State University-Cascades is the only campus in Oregon that does not have a recreation center. In an effort to advance our campus' development, students back in 2017 made a commitment to pay a portion of the building costs for a Health & Recreation Center up-front. Every student since then has put money forward for a building they themselves will never use during their time at OSU-Cascades. Not only would this building become a localized hub for exercise equipment and court space, but it would also include designated rooms for student mental health counseling. The student contribution for this wellness building will be at least \$15 million.

OSU-Cascades students are doing their part to complete our campus. Cascades has proven itself to be a valuable asset to Oregon's economic and educational development. All we need is a little help from the state to make our efforts worthwhile.

Sincerely,

The Associated Students of Cascades Campus